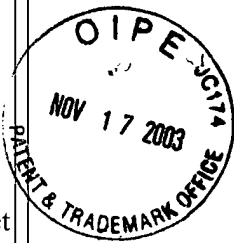


Attorney Docket
33216 M 046



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PATENT

#8

11-25-03

P.2.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CONFIRMATION NO. 3341

Applicants : Yuji FUJIWARA, et al.

Serial No. : 09/554,517

Art Unit : 2613

Filed : May 17, 2000

Examiner : Erick J. REKSTAD

For : Video Signal Coding Method, Video Signal Coding Apparatus and
A Program Recording Medium

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Technology Center 2600

RESPONSE TO PAPER NO. 7 REQUIRING ELECTION OF SPECIES

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir :

This is in reply to the Office Action of October 17, 2003 (Paper No. 7) which required election of a single species. The alleged species are as follows:

Species 1 corresponding to Figure 1,

Species 2 corresponding to Figure 5,

Species 3 corresponding to Figure 9,

Species 4 corresponding to Figure 12,

Species 5 corresponding to Figure 13, and

Species 6 corresponding to Figure 14.

Applicants elect Species 1, corresponding to Figure 1, for examination in this application. Applicants advise that claim 4 is readable on elected Species 1. This election is made without traverse.

Applicants reserve the right to file divisional applications directed to the claims of the non-elected species. In due course, Applicants will attend to any changes to the inventorship or the claim for priority which may be necessitated by the cancellation of non-elected claims.

It is submitted that this application now is in condition for examination on the merits and early action in that regard is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

SMITH, GAMBRELL & RUSSELL, LLP



Michael A. Makuch, Reg. 32,263
1850 M Street, NW – Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
Telephone : 202/263-4300
Facsimile : 202/263-4329

Date : November 17, 2003